What is claimed is:

1. A signal compressing system, comprising:

coding means for scanning an input signal according to a plurality of different scanning patterns to provide coded versions thereof; and

selection means for selecting that one of said scanning patterns which produces efficient coding according to a predetermined criterion and outputting a scanning pattern signal identifying the selected scanning pattern.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the coding means codes the input signal according to a runlength coding regime.

3. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a variable length coder to variable length code the coded signal which is produced by scanning according to the selected scanning pattern.

4. A system according to claim 1, further comprising discrete cosine transformer means to produce said input signal.

1   5.   A system according to claim 4, wherein said

2   transformer means is a motion-compensated interframe

3   adaptive discrete cosine transformer.

1   6.   An image data compressing system comprising:

2   means for obtaining a difference between the

3   present frame and a preceding motion-compensated frame

4   of an image signal;

5   means for coding the difference by discrete

6   cosine transform coding and quantizing the discrete

7   cosine transform coded image signal difference and

8   inverse discrete cosine transform coding the

9   dequantized image signal;

10   means for compensating the motion of the image

11   signal;

12   means for coding the quantized image signal by

13   variable length coding;

14   a selector for selecting an appropriate image

15   scanning pattern from at least one of a plurality of

16   image scanning patterns;

17   a multi-scanner for scanning the quantized image

18   signal by various scanning patterns;

19   a scanning mode selector for selecting a scanning

20   mode in which a number of bits produced from a start

21   to an end of a data sub-block is minimized, the

22   variable length coder for coding the image signal

23   output of the scanning mode selector by way of

24   variable length coding; and

25   a multiplexer for multiplexing and outputting the

26   variable length coded signal and the scanning pattern

27   selecting signal output by the scanning pattern

28   selector.

1   7.   A system according to claim 2, further

2   comprising a variable length coder to variable length

3   code the coded signal which is produced by scanning

4   according to the selected scanning pattern.

1   8.   A system according to claim 2, further

2   comprising discrete cosine transformer means to

3   produce said input signal.

1   9.   A system according to claim 3, further

2   comprising discrete cosine transformer means to

3   produce said input signal.